

## HE WAS FOUR WHEN LIBERTY BELL RANG.

Noah Raby, a Jersey Pauper,  
Claims to Have Been  
Born in 1772.

HIS BIRTHDAY IS APRIL 1.

Heard Washington Make a Hot  
Speech in Revolution-  
ary Days.

HAS SMOKED OVER A CENTURY.

Was Going to Get Married Once, but  
Didn't Dare Ask the Lady—Glad  
Now He Didn't, as He Might  
Have Died Sooner.

There is a queer little old man in the poorhouse supported by Piscataway Township, near New Brunswick, N. J., who claims to be the oldest man in the United States, if not in the world. He has been maintaining for twenty-five years that he passed the century mark on April 1, 1872, and people who have listened to his life story are struck by the truth of what the old man says. "I shall be 125 years old on April 1," says Noah Raby as soon as he is engaged in conversation.

John Hummer, the overseer of the poorhouse, has held his place for thirty years, and Noah was an inmate long before he took charge. Mr. Hummer believes firmly



Noah Raby, Who Says He Is 125 Years Old.

In Noah Raby's claim, and says that he appears to have the same strength of mind and body as he did thirty years ago. Noah is blind, and when he makes little excursions about the grounds he is guided by a wire that stretches from point to point. The old man is feeble, but he makes these little trips at least once a day. Raby spends most of his time sitting calmly in a cushioned arm chair, in which he sleeps in an upright position. His sunken eyes sparkle like gems, and give his countenance a strange aspect. His hair is long and white, and his beard, which has not changed color for fifty years, says the oldest inhabitants, is iron gray. His features are purely Caucasian, although he says that his father was an Indian and his mother a white. His accent is strongly Southern, and because of the absence of teeth he talks with a sort of whistling accompaniment.

**Weights 100 Pounds.**  
Raby weighs about 100 pounds; his body is bent no more than a man of seventy, and the muscles of his legs and arms seem firm. Still, the old man is easily tired. A day seldom passes that he has not a visitor. Many come from great distances to see if he can supply information about old Southern families.

Raby invariably tells the history of his life in the same way, always telling the same details, and seldom contradicting himself. When questioned about things which occurred during his early days he is bothered much to remember exact details in cases where he was not especially interested, but the details in his memory are not marked. His story, in his own words, is this:

"I first saw the light in the little village of Eatontown, Gates County, North Carolina, April 1, 1772. My father's name was Andrew Bass, and my mother's name was Sarah. I never went to school. I learned to read from the Old Testament and hymn books, but could never write even my own name. When I was six years old I began to smoke. My mother used to let me light her pipe for her, and I grew to like the smoke, and would sometimes smoke it myself. It never made me sick, and I have smoked one hundred and twenty years. I have drunk whiskey as often as I have smoked, and it overcame me only three times.

**His First Drunk.**  
"The first time when I was about seventeen. There was a man to be an eclipse, and every one was frightened. I went to town with an old negro and he wanted some whiskey. The tavern keepers were not allowed to sell slaves liquor, so I got it for him. Before I handed it to the old man I drank some. Then he gave me another, and the two of us drank. He had to get into the bottom of the cart we were in. On the way home young Mr. Fields, who was driving, said he would give me a good whack, but if he did I didn't feel it.

"The next time when I got drunk was here in New Jersey. I went to New Brunswick with a young fellow, and he persuaded me to drink too much. He had the worst of the joke, for he had to carry me home through the snow. He dropped me several times, but I didn't notice that.

who lived in Virginia, just over the line. He had lots of slaves. One, known as 'Big Tom,' was the strongest man I ever saw. The old man was offered lots of money for him, but he didn't believe in selling slaves.

"When I was twenty-one widow Penelope Parker took me to work with her. I stayed with her for five years and she paid me \$200 a year. Then I went to work for her daughter-in-law, Sarah Parker. She owned a big plantation with a whole lot of slaves. I thought possibly I could marry her and it would all be mine. This plan was all right, but we were never married. I was afraid to ask her.

"One day my half brother came to see me. I told him that I was in love, and he advised a trip to sea. I went without settling my accounts. Later I got leave of absence and came back. The young woman paid me in full and asked why I left so suddenly. I up and told her, and then she said:

"Faint heart never won fair lady. 'Why didn't I marry her then?' Good reason—the man who took my place as overseer of the plantation had married her two weeks before. I never fell in love again, and have always thought myself lucky that I didn't. I wouldn't have lived so long, perhaps.

"When I was in Norfolk I heard General Washington speak. I don't remember just what he was talking about, but I know he was angry over slavery. He said he was stuck in my head ever since. It was:

"Go on, fellow-citizens, as you have been going on, and I assure you we shall have the devil to pay in this Republic, and no pitch fork. That's what he said, and no mistake.

**Wanted None of War.**

"I didn't want to go to war, so I left the navy. I've lost my discharge papers, and I'm sorry, for I could have got a pension by them, and then they'd have proved my age.

"I joined the Baptist Church, at Elizabeth, forty years ago. I don't believe though that being a Baptist is all that's necessary. There's got to be a change of heart, and that's what I got in old Virginia. I was taken sick one night and as I lay in bed I had a jocular feeling and became strangely happy. I went around the house shouting halloo halloo. I've had enough to eat all my life, and have had a good time. In politics I've always been a good old Democrat, and I am sorry that they won't let me vote now. I wish I had learned to write my name, but I couldn't see to do it now."

On April 1, Noah will have many callers to congratulate him on reaching so great an age.

## SOCIETY'S PLANS FOR THE BIG ZOO.

Drawings Under Way for  
Buildings in Bronx  
Park.

A LEGISLATIVE BILL.

It Will Authorize the Expenditure  
of \$125,000 in Laying  
Out the Grounds.

ANIMALS FROM EVERYWHERE.

An Effort Will Be Made to Make the  
New Zoo the Most Completely  
Equipped One in the  
World.

Now that the Sinking Fund Commissioners have finally decided to give a site in Bronx Park for a zoological garden, the New York Zoological Society will hasten to complete the plans for the necessary buildings for animals and birds. William T. Hornaday, the director of the park, said yesterday:

"We had some drawings of contemplated structures made, but they have had to be changed to meet suggestions of the Park Department officials and others, and a great deal of work has to be done on them before we can submit them for approval. A bill is now before the Legislature to authorize the expenditure of \$125,000 for laying out the grounds. When the grounds are ready this society will spend \$250,000 in buildings and stock. We shall bring animals from all parts of the world for the proposed zoo.

"In my report to the society to-day I thus group the objects of our organization:

"The establishment of a free park, containing collections of North American and exotic animals, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, the zoologist, the sportsman and every lover of nature.

"The systematic encouragement of interest

in animal life, or zoology, among all classes of people, and the promotion of zoological science in general.

"Co-operation with other organizations in the preservation of the native animals of North America, and encouragement of the growing sentiment against their wanton destruction."

"So far we have only the ground plans for the monkey and lion houses finished, but we shall be ready to begin building as soon as the necessary legislation is passed, as provided for in the legislative bill. As I say to our members, 'the first duty of the society lies in the foundation of a zoological park adequate to meet the demands for the education and recreation of the people of this great city.'

"If any one doubts the public desire to know more of the living creatures who inhabit the earth and its waters, let him mingle for an hour in the crowds that throng the Battery Park Aquarium or the Central Park menagerie, and be convinced. We believe that the ideal vivarium is one in which the living creatures can be kept under conditions most closely approximating those with which nature usually surrounds them. In spaces so extensive with many species the sense of confinement is either lost or greatly diminished, yet at the same time sufficiently limited so that the animals are not inaccessible or invisible to the visitor."

The society plans first to gather representatives of the great animals of this continent: buffalo, elk, moose, mountain sheep, antelope, black tailed deer, Virginia deer, caribou and the mountain goat. Enclosures varying from three to twenty acres are planned for each of these. The buffalo herd will consist of about twenty-five carefully selected animals and it will have a range of twenty acres. It is intended to secure a choice collection of American birds, foxes and other mammals. Mr. Hornaday are realized, the collections of upland game birds, of waders, of swimming birds and birds of prey, will be sources of great interest to every sportsman. An immense flying cage, already under consideration, will be a revelation to every lover of wild life. The lion and monkey houses will contain features, not hitherto utilized in such buildings, that will enhance the attractiveness of their occupants.

Special attention is to be paid by the society to the preservation of our wild animals of the American continent. Mr. Hornaday condemns the spirit of destruction in these words: "Throughout the entire continent every year a vast number of birds, reptile and fish is marked for slaughter. Apparently no species is too large, too small or too worthless to be caught and destroyed by gun, trap, net or poison. In the pursuit of large game animals, no labor is too severe, no risk too great, provided the animal is not injured. In the case of a wild creature that can be killed and eaten, or despoiled of something of its own use, civilized man immediately becomes a savage, eager to slay."

**A Shrewd Move.**  
[Detroit Tribune.]

By deferring the special session until March 15, Mr. McKinley gets nearly two weeks in which to sort out the offices that Ohio doesn't want.

## SCIENCE SCORES ANOTHER VICTORY

Emphatic Indorsement by  
Physicians of a New  
Curative Principle.

SPLendid SERIES OF SUCCESSSES.

Vital Magnetism, What It Is,  
How It Is Applied, and the  
Help It Is Giving To-day to  
the Sick and Suffering.

Several open letters from physicians have recently appeared in the public press of this city, fully indorsing the claims made for Professor S. J. Damon of the triumph of Vital Magnetism over the ills of the flesh. The most sceptical must be satisfied with such sterling collateral as this, when it is considered that Vital Magnetism is almost, if not entirely, divorced from the ideas as set forth by the medical practitioners of to-day. Professor Damon is the originator of the scientific application of vital magnetism to diseases, and his explanation is simple and direct. Life and health in the human system mean that the body is supplied with a sufficient quantity of Vital



PROFESSOR DAMON

Magnetism. Sickness and disease show that the supply is exhausted, and an entire absence of it means but one condition—death. Vital Magnetism, then, is the great spark of life and health that makes rich blood, red cheeks and the robust appearance which mere medicine cannot produce.

Professor Damon and his associates are gifted with an excessive amount of this vital spark, and they have mastered the power to transmit it to those who suffer. Their method is simple and direct.

Starting at the brain of the patient, the operator places one hand there, and with the other, seeking the various nerve lines, forms a magnetic circuit, and sends a supply of magnetism through his finger tips straight to the seat of disease, and this magnetism, supplying the need that in its cry for help caused the suffering, drives out of the body every sign and symptom of ill health.

Nothing complicated about that, is there? Seems to be much more simple than experimenting day after day with bottle after bottle of nauseous medicine, perhaps hitting the right one in the end, and perhaps not.

That is Vital Magnetism—a simple and direct transference of the vital current from one whom nature has blessed with an excess of supply to one who is lacking from the lack of it, as the flowers die from a lack of sunshine and rain. At the Damon Vitapathic Institute and Sanitarium, Nos. 30 and 32 West Twenty-seventh street, some marvellous cases have lately been chronicled. One in point is that of an aged lady, living in Newark, N. J., who

had been deaf for twenty years. Just think of it! She hadn't heard the voices of her loved ones in all that time, but, after half a dozen treatments, with each of our eyes and ears, she began to hear. She was so happy, she began to smile, and she remarked: "Professor Damon, you have transported me into a new world. I cannot express the measure of happiness you have put into my life."

When there was the case of a young lady in Washington. Several years ago a lump began to show in her throat, and in the course of time she was disfigured and disheartened by the growth of a large goitre. Physicians claimed she would be marked for life if it was operated upon, and for years she suffered with it, until reading of the wonderful success of Professor Damon in treating such cases, she came to New York and applied to him. In two treatments—think of it!—in two applications of Vital Magnetism she found that the goitre had entirely disappeared. And do you wonder that this young lady never ceases sounding the praises of the Damon Institute?

Another almost miraculous case was that of a lady who lives in New Rochelle. She had been bedridden for years with acute chronic rheumatism. On the occasion of her first visit to Professor Damon some weeks ago she was carried to her carriage, propped up with pillows, her body racked with pain, and managed to reach the Institute, though almost in a state of collapse. The first application improved her condition, the second gave her the courage to believe that she would get well, and the third time, a day or two ago, she rode to the city, and for years she walked, unassisted, up the steps of the Institute, and two or three more treatments will send her home entirely cured.

What do you suppose she thinks of Professor Damon and his great work? Think of a lady who in bedridden misery she might have escaped, and think of the happiness of the future that awaits her! A recent case that had its pathetic side was that of a young man from the Eastern District of Brooklyn. He was a sufferer from a serious lung complication. Wasted in body, crushed in spirit, broken in ambition, he had made up his mind that but few months remained for him in the world. To make his case the more pathetic, he was in love with a beautiful girl, but, knowing his condition, felt that he had no right to claim her love or hope to ever call her wife.

He read in a New York newspaper one day of a case similar to his which had been cured at the Damon Institute, and he lost no time in seeking the advice and help offered there. A severe and searching examination revealed the fact that, while both his lungs were in a measure affected, and his system very much run down, there was a big chance of Vital Magnetism bringing him around sound as a dollar.

Well, to sum up a long story, that young man, straight as an arrow, vigorous as an athlete and with eyes sparkling with health, is married now to the girl he loved. And just mention Professor Damon to him if you want to hear eulogy that is eulogy.

And so the cases run. The whole gamut of disease falls an easy victim to the reviving and curing powers of Vital Magnetism, and every day patients suffer with palsy, rheumatism, blindness, goitre, lung diseases, paralysis, liver and kidney complaints, stomachic rebellion, neuralgia—in fact, of all the ills that flesh is heir to—are sent on their way rejoicing, cured and free from suffering.

It will be remembered that during ten weeks last Fall Professor Damon and his associates cured over 2,000 people before audiences aggregating upward of 200,000 people in the lecture hall of Masonic Temple without money and without price, and without the shadow of a single failure.

The poor were as welcome as the rich, and many a man was enabled through the benefit derived there to go to work and take his family out of want. It was an act of philanthropy which the poor appreciated and the public heartily applauded. Professor Damon and his associates are located permanently in the Damon Institute and Sanitarium, 30 and 32 West Twenty-seventh street, which is without doubt the best equipped place of its kind in the State. People in the city and its environs will find the Institute easy of access, and those from distant points will find it convenient to the Sanitarium, and be assured of every attention their cases may require. Hundreds of people are treated every day, and it can be said with all truth that Professor Damon and his glorious discovery of the scientific application of Vital Magnetism are proving a blessed boon to the sick and suffering.

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This Oak Sideboard, with fancy beveled plate, velvet lined drawer, &c., at a wonderful price.....

**\$7.48**

DINING SET, composed of Sideboard, 6 Chairs and Extension Table, for.....

**\$14.95**

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Beautiful pile Carpet in the very richest, choicest designs, 85c per yard.....

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Very finest weave, 1897 patterns, 75c per yard.....

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Sold elsewhere for \$5.25; will be sold by us T H R E E ONLY, at.....

**PARLOR SUIT,**  
5 pieces, decorated velvet, unlined frames, \$34.00

**FRENCH TOILET TABLE,**  
Handsome circular table, oak or imitation mahogany.....

**LACE CURTAINS,**  
Eccentric or white, full length and width, per pair.....

**LACE BED SETS,**  
Spread, with Shams to match.....

**Table Lamp,**  
nickel plated with central draught burner, complete with 10-inch dome shade, .98

**BOX COUCH:** Wardrobe, Couch and Bed, all complete in one article; utility of the most economical kind.....

**Chamber Sets, Pier and Mantel Glasses, &c., &c.**

**MAHOGANY, GREEN OAK AND FLEMISH FINISH.**  
General Guide to Housekeeping, 400 pages, by mail, 10c.

**Refrigerator, Stove, Housefurnishing, Baby Carriage, Desk and Typewriter Desk.**  
CATALOGUE FREE

**ODD CHAIRS FOR PARLOR, HALL AND SITTING ROOM, IN**  
Mahogany, Green oak and Flemish finish.....

**TAPESTRY PORTIERES,**  
Fringed top and bottom, 5 colorings, new designs.....

**WINDOW SHADES,**  
All colors, imitation Holland Hand made, opaque.....

**Refrigerators,**  
Our assortment admits of no further improvement.  
1st size, \$3.69  
Next size, \$4.69  
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Ice Pick and Pan free with every one purchased.  
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Finest quality of imported Linoleum, worth \$1.25 per yard.....

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Full roll of fine straw floor covering.....

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## BIG SHOE SALE.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Seasonable Shoes at a Great Sacrifice.  
50c. to \$2.00 a Pair Saved.

The tremendous success of our Sacrifice Sale of Spring and Summer footwear at the beginning of the season has induced us to continue the sale another week. Although many of the lots advertised last week have been entirely sold out, we open Monday morning with many new Kinds at even greater value than before.

**Ladies' Department.**  
Comfort in shopping and careful attention to each customer in the largest Ladies' Shoe Department in the world.

**Ladies' Tan Button and Lace Kid Shoes,**  
\$2.00 grades.....

**Ladies' Tan Lace Shoes,**  
Columbia Style, Value \$2.50.....

**Ladies' Kid Button Shoes,**  
Goodyear welt (hand-sewed process), 3 popular styles, \$2.50 quality.....

**Ladies' Tan Vici Kid Lace Shoes,**  
Kid or Cloth Tops, Dark Colors, usual \$3.50 quality, 1.99.

**Ladies' Black Vici Kid, Button and Lace Shoes,**  
10 Popular Styles, \$3.00 and \$3.50 kinds.....

**Ladies' Cloth Top Button and Lace Shoes,**  
New style Columbia toe, with Kid Tips; a \$4.00 Shoe.....

**Ladies' Kid and Tan Oxford Ties,**  
Regular \$1.50 goods; all sizes.....

**Ladies' Kid Oxford Ties,**  
Turned soles, very flexible; \$2.00 grades.....

**5,000 Pairs Ladies' Kid and Tan Sample Oxfords,**  
Best grades made; sizes 3 to 4½; widths A, B, C.....

**Men's Shoes.**  
New Goods, Popular Styles, Plenty of Them.

**Men's Tan Russian Calf,**  
Lace Shoes, Yale Toe, usual \$2 grade.....

**Men's Fine Satin Calf Shoes,**  
All styles, durable goods; value \$2.50.....

**Men's Calf Lace Shoes,**  
Men's Tan Vici Shoes, Bulldog, Nichols or Boston Toes, actual value, \$3.50, 1.99.

**Men's Patent Calf Lace Shoes,**  
Goodyear welt, 2 styles (hand sewed process), made from imported stock, value \$4.50.....

**Men's Tan Vici Kid and Russian Calf Shoes,**  
5 Styles, Usual \$4.50 goods, 2.49.

**Men's Genuine Russia Calf Lace Shoes,**  
Hand-sewed welts, fashionable colors; worth \$5.00.....

**Men's French Patent Leather Shoes,**  
Made from Imported Patent Calfskin; hand-sewed welts; all styles from the widest to narrowest toes; value \$5.00.....

**Men's Tan Russia Calf Slippers,**  
Chamois lined, value \$2.00.....

**Men's Embroidered Velvet House Slippers,**  
Value \$1.00.....

**Boys' and Girls' Shoes.**  
Customers are assured of courteous treatment and skilful attendance in this department.

**Boys' Tan Lace Shoes,**  
Boys' Casco Calf Shoes, Sizes 11 to 5½, New coin toe, Comfortable Shapes, 99c.

**Little Man's Tan Spring Heel Lace Shoes,**  
Sizes 9 to 13; value \$1.50.....

**Little Man's Black Spring Heel Lace Shoes,**  
Sizes 9 to 13.....

**Youths' Genuine French Patent Calf Dress Shoes,**  
Sizes 13 to 2; value \$2.50.....

**Boys' High Grade Tan Vici Kid and Calf Shoes,**  
Hand-sewed process; value \$3.50.....

**Misses' and Children's Tan Shoes,**  
Good Style, Serviceable, sizes 8 to 11.....

**Children's and Misses' Fine Kid Sample Shoes,**  
Tan and Black; usually sold for \$1.50 to \$3.00.....

**Misses' Dark Tan Vici Kid Button and Lace Shoes,**  
Usually \$1.75 and \$2.00; sizes 8½ to 2.....

**Children's Tan Button Shoes,**  
No heels; sizes 2 to 6.....

**Children's Kid Sandal Slippers,**  
No heels; sizes 2 to 6.....

## MUSIC HALL POLITICS.

The Applause for Jokes Always Indicates  
Which Side Is Going to Win  
the Election.

"Nothing indicates the drift of political sentiment more than the actions of the music hall audiences," said an observing Go-hamite the other evening while watching a performance at one of the local theatres. "As a straw will indicate the way the wind blows, so will your music hall audience demonstrate the feeling of the people concerning politics."

**Platt Item.**  
[Detroit News.]  
Senator Platt will doubtless be able to hear up tolerably well under the proposition to ship General Horace Porter to Europe.

**Remarkable Fact.**  
[Detroit News.]  
The most remarkable thing about the extravagance of Congress is that each individual member always makes a specialty of economy.